

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08208 111807Z

67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 IGA-02 AID-20 MC-02 ACDA-19 IO-13 EB-11 RSR-01

/170 W

----- 054151

R 111425Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 282

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONGKONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, VN

SUBJ: BREZHNEV AND LE DUAN EXCHANGE SPEECHES AT KREMLIN  
RECEPTION

1. BREZHNEV WAITED TILL VERY LAST PART OF SPEECH AT KREMLIN LUNCH HONORING VISITING NORTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS ON JULY 10 TO DRAMATICALLY ANNOUNCE MOSCOW'S DECISION TO WIPE SLATE CLEAN OF ALL DEBTS OWED BY HANOI FOR PAST SOVIET ASSISTANCE. (ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN SERGEYEV OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS TOLD U.S. VISITOR THAT VIETNAMESE WOULD REPAY AID GIVEN TO THEM.) IN MAKING THIS GESTURE OF LARGESSE, HOWEVER, BREZHNEV AVOIDED MAKING ANY FUTURE SOVIET COMMITMENTS, PREFERRING INSTEAD TO BROADEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR NORTH VIETNAM'S FUTURE BY VOICING MOSCOW'S " CONVICTION" THAT HANOI WOULD SUCCESSFULLY COPE WITH ITS AIMS, RELYING ON "INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT OF ALL SOCIALIST STATES."

2. BREZHNEV'S REMARKS WERE CAREFULLY OUTLINED AGAINST BACKGROUND OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08208 111807Z

INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO US/SOVIET

AGREEMENTS WHICH SOVIET LEADER SAID ARE IN INTEREST OF ALL COUNTRIES INCLUDING SOCIALIST BLOC. WHILE BREZHNEV TOUCHED ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING CONTINUED HOSTILITIES IN CAMBODIA AND TENSIONS IN MIDDLE EAST, POSITIVE TONE OF SPEECH WAS CAST AT VERY BEGINNING WHEN HE REFERRED TO END OF VIETNAM WAR AND TO "ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CLIMATE ON PLANET."

3. LE DUAN RELY, WHILE EFFUSIVE IN PRAISE OF PAST SOVIET SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO "VICTORY", IGNORED BREZHNEV'S DETENTE THEME. INSTEAD, LE DUAN WAS HARSH IN CONDEMNING U.S. INTERVENTION AND VOICED FAMILIAR ALLEGATIONS ABOUT WASHINGTON'S AND SAIGON'S FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO PARIS AGREEMENTS. WITHOUT MAKING DIRECT APPEAL FOR NEW SOVIET ASSISTANCE OR REFERRING TO BREZHNEV'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SLATE WAS WIPED CLEAN, LE DUAN LEFT NO DOUBT AS TO HIS EXPECTATIONS BY REFERRING TO "POWERFUL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POTENTIAL OF USSR" AND IMPORTANCE OF MOSCOW'S ROLE AT THIS TIME. LEST PEKING FEEL SLIGHTED, LE DUAN WAS ALSO CAREFUL TO BALANCE PRAISE FOR USSR BY NOTING THAT HANOI'S SUCCESS IS DUE TO SUPPORT OF SOVIET PEOPLE "AND ALSO CHINESE PEOPLE."  
MELENCAMP

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NNN

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